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INL grants give students head start on college, technical training

IDAHO FALLS — Idaho National Laboratory has awarded more than \$20,000 in grants to help high school students earn technical certificates or college credits in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses.

INL's Dual Credit Scholarship Program awarded grants ranging from \$600 to \$6,000 to several Idaho school districts as well as the Idaho Falls and Pocatello chambers of commerce. The money covers the extra fees associated with college-level or technical certificate courses, which can cost students \$15 to \$65 a credit to take.

"It is much less expensive for students to take these classes while they are still in high school," said Melinda Hamilton, INL's Education Programs director. "Taking dual credit courses gives them a head start on college. Some of them are able to earn a year's worth of college credits or a technical certificate by the time they graduate from high school."

Schools have up to a year to select candidates for the scholarships, which are intended to help students, particularly those considered at risk or underserved. Schools applied for money through a competitive application process and were selected based on need and how they planned to disburse the money.

2011 Dual Credit Awards

- Minico High School, Rupert District #331
- Meridian Medical Arts Charter, Meridian District #2
- Rigby High School, Jefferson, District #251
- Lakeside High School, Plummer/Worley District #44
- Meadows Valley High School, Meadows Valley District #11
- Idaho Digital Learning Academy, virtual school across the state
- North Gem School District #149
- Blackfoot High School, Blackfoot District #55
- New Plymouth High School, New Plymouth District #372
- Marsing High School, Marsing District #363
- Kimberly High School, Kimberly District #414
- Prairie High School, Cottonwood District #242
- Cambridge High School, Cambridge District #432
- Potlatch Jr.-Sr. High School, Potlatch District #285
- Moscow High School, Moscow District #281
- Sandpoint Charter High School, Lake Pend Oreille District #84
- Filer High School, Filer District #413
- Bear Lake High School, Bear Lake District #33
- Parma High School, Parma District #137
- Madison High School, Madison District #321
- ARTEC Charter School, Twin Falls
- Idaho Virtual Academy, virtual school across the state
- Challis High School, Challis District #181
- McCall Donnelly High School, McCall-Donnelly District #421
- Meadows Valley, Meadows Valley District #11
- Lakeside, Plummer-Worley District #44
- Meridian Medical Arts Charter School, Meridian District #2
- Idaho State Dept. of Education Science and Aerospace Scholars Program, various districts
- Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce
 - o Idaho Falls School District #91
 - o Bonneville School District #93
 - o Jefferson County District #251
- Pocatello Chamber of Commerce, Pocatello School District #25

STEM education is a priority for the U.S. Department of Energy, INL and Battelle Energy Alliance, a nonprofit organization that operates the lab for DOE. INL's STEM education initiative provides professional development opportunities and resources for Idaho teachers and encourages students to develop their skills in science, technology, engineering and math.

INL is one of the DOE's 10 multiprogram national laboratories. The laboratory performs work in each of the strategic goal areas of DOE: energy, national security, science and environment. INL is the nation's leading center for nuclear energy research and development.

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